

SPAAMFAA Board of Trustees Meeting

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday 2/23/2022

Wyndham Hotel

Kissimmee, Florida

Minutes

Voting members in attendance –

Frank Tremel	President
Ted Elder	Sr. Vice President
Justin Birchfield	Vice President
Brian Anderson Jr.	District #1 Trustee
Tim “Cosgrove” Jones	District #2 Trustee
Mike Turcott	District #3 Trustee (Via ZOOM)
Jim Kurycki	District #4 Trustee
Tom Hooker	District #5 Trustee
Chuck Buschardt	District #6 Trustee
Dan Lintz	District #8 Trustee
Scott Rollins	District #9 Trustee
Bill Blunden	Executive Secretary

Non-voting members in attendance -

Leroy Wilder	Treasurer
Candy Bennett	Membership Secretary
David Lewis	Website and Archives District #9 Trustee elect (Via Zoom)
Jeff Stauffer	District #7 Trustee elect (Via Zoom)
Richard Quetta	Muster Chairman
Stan Socha	Former Treasurer
Jesse Walter	Quartermaster/Asst Secretary
Bob Romig	FABB President
Deb Davis	Archives Committee (Via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Tremel at 9:03 am. The pledge of allegiance followed. President Tremel welcomed all the Trustees and members of the board to the meeting and then laid the ground rules for the meeting, asking that individuals requesting to speak raise their hand and wait to be called on.

President Tremel introduced Bob Romig, the event coordinator from FABB. He welcomed everyone to Kissimmee and hoped everyone was ready to enjoy the sunshine of Florida. He asked that if anyone has any concerns or comments, to please direct them to him and not post on social media.

There were no public comments made.

The minutes from the summer meeting in Portland were accepted on a motion by Tim Jones and seconded by Tom Hooker and carried.

I. Officer/Trustees Reports – Questions or Updates Only

- There were no additions to the trustee reports in the packet from any of the trustees.
- Executive Secretary reported that there are currently 6 chapters who have not submitted their annual reports or made their annual insurance payments. There was a good deal of discussion on how to handle chapters that are in arrears at this time. The board members made the following decisions:
 - East Texas Historical Fire Society- This chapter has been inactive and Trustee Buschardt stated that they are no longer an operating chapter. This was confirmed by other board members. **The Society will be dropped from the rolls of SPAAMFAA at this time and a letter will be sent by the executive secretary informing them of the decision on a motion by Tim Jones, seconded by Chuck Buschardt and CARRIED**
 - Gold Rush Chapter- This chapter has not completed their annual reports for the past two years, have not paid their annual insurance payment this year, and their board members have not been SPAAMFAA members as required for the past two years. **The chapter will be dropped from the rolls of SPAAMFAA at this time and a letter will be sent by the executive secretary informing them of the decision on a motion by Mike Turcott, seconded by Justin Birchfield and CARRIED.** The letter will also inform them that they are no longer covered by the SPAAMFAA insurance from this point forward.
 - The Antique Fire Association of NJ, the Catskill FireCats, Mile High Hook and Ladder, and Texas Fire Museum chapters are being sent a warning letter stating that if they are not up-to-date on the requirements by the summer meeting, action will be taken including the possibility of being dropped from the Society. The executive secretary will send letters to each chapter president and the trustees overseeing those chapters will also contact the chapter to inform them of their status.
 - There are two new chapter proposals

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **MEMBERSHIP:** Candy Bennett reported:
 - We have approximately 2,000 paid members as of this date.
- **FINANCE/ENDOWMENT:** Ted Elder gave a Finance Committee report.
 - The endowment fund had roughly \$200,000 at the close of 2021.
 - The investments are doing quite well so far.
 - There have been no requests made during the past year for funding.
 - There was a discussion on the endowment fund and how it operates. The fund is used for long term projects and 3% of the fund money as of July 1st is available to be used for projects like the archives, website improvements, etc.

- **SAFETY:**
 - There was discussion on the need for chapters to send post-event reports to the safety committee after events so that we have a record of potential incidents/liability. The executive secretary will send a reminder to all chapter presidents and a copy of the report form for their use. David Lewis was also sent a copy that will be posted on the SPAAMFAA website.
- **WEBSITE:** David Lewis reported:
 - The website is functioning well currently with no need for further updates from Sam Melton. David Lewis is always looking for content to add to the site to keep it fresh.
- **ARCHIVES:** Warren Lun reported that:
 - The Archives is selling old books/doubles of those in the collection at various flea markets and events to raise funds.
 - The archivist was off due to personal issues for a period of time but has completed 70% of the cataloging. He continues to work on this and the committee is looking into future activities for him once he is at 100%. Other activities could include possibly scanning photos, and doing articles for EE as he has done articles for AHS in the past.
 - Requests for projects is being handled by Warren Lun.
 - If someone wishes to visit the archives, they need to make an appointment with the archives to ensure that the archivist is available as he only works two days per week.
- **ENGINE! – ENGINE!:**
 - We are still looking for someone to assist with the editing of the magazine to assist Scott Rollins. It is hoped that someone who has an interest will step forward and eventually may be interested in taking over in the future.
 - President Tremel suggested that the trustees assist in getting photos to Scott for the annual muster issue. Only 18 chapters of the 50 have submitted photos.
 - Scott asked that photos be sent to him. He will then ask the chapter for captions and information and will copy the trustee for the chapter to help ensure that photos are submitted in a timely manner.
 - **On a motion by Tim Jones, and seconded by Dan Lintz, this duty will be added to the job descriptions for the trustees in the By-laws by the executive secretary and CARRIED.**
- **CONFERENCE/MUSTER:**
 - Richard Quetta reported that we need to order new lanyards as we will have enough for the summer meeting and then we will need to order. He has suggested getting lanyards with a break-away cord for safety. He will get quotes for these and send electronically and then an electronic vote will be done to approve/disapprove the purchase.
 - Richard reviewed the upcoming schedule of conventions. The schedule will be outlined later in the minutes.

- **PRESERVATION AWARD:**

- Dan Lintz reported that there have not been lot of nominations as of late.
- David Lewis will make the application on the website printable to make it easier to use.
- Bob Romig requested that trustees help get apparatus nominated.

- **TREASURER:**

- Leroy Wilder covered the current assets and liabilities. We ended the year at a net \$71,000 to the good.
- The new software he is using is making the reporting much easier and functional and he is pleased with it so far.
- BUDGET: The 2022 Budget was presented by Leroy Wilder and discussion on the items. It is anticipated we will have a small net income at the end of the year. **(ATTACHMENT A)**

Break from 10:30am until 10:45am

III. OLD BUSINESS:

1. NEW CHAPTER APPLICATIONS: The executive secretary reported that here are two new chapter proposals:

- DelMar chapter in the Maryland area. They have submitted the required forms but have not paid the insurance payment and their board members are not SPAAMFAA members as required. This application will be put on hold until the summer meeting, and the check not cashed until then, to allow them to complete the requirements. The executive secretary will inform them of this decision.
- There is a group in Bovina Center, NY meeting to form a new chapter. They are considering the Catskill Leatherheads or Delaware Valley Leatherheads as a name. The executive secretary is working with them and it is hoped that they will be ready to submit their application by the summer meeting. President Tremel asked the executive secretary to have Chris Kelly send the group some back issues of ST and EE to review and show them what they can expect. The executive secretary has contacted Chris and they are to be sent out 2/24/22.

2. 20&50 YEAR PINS:

- The membership secretary reported that the 20 & 50 year pins being sent out are behind schedule. She has been trying to figure out a way to send them in the most cost-effective manner. She reported that the records in the past make it difficult at times to get an accurate picture of some of the members who are eligible.

3. NEW MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE:

- Scott Rollins presented the proposed draft of the new membership brochure that was designed by David Lewis. After some discussions, there were edits requested including:
 - Adding a QR code
 - Removing insurance info under member benefits

- Remove Patron and Benefactor level categories and move donations info to those spots.
- **The brochure printing will be tabled until we can get price points for printing to determine the most cost-effective number to print on a motion by Chuck Buschardt, seconded by Dan Lintz and CARRIED**
- **The membership level of Patron and Benefactor will be eliminated on a motion by Tom Hooker, seconded by Tim Jones and CARRIED.**

There was a long discussion held regarding Life membership and the financial impact these memberships have on the society. We made changes to how those funds are being handled at a previous meeting to help offset the actual costs. Tim Jones asked if there was a way we could change how these monies are being invested, similar to the endowment funds to make the best return. **On a motion by Dan Lintz, seconded by Tom Hooker, the finance committee will be tasked with looking at the best possible investment strategy for these funds and recommend changes at the next meeting CARRIED.**

BREAK FOR LUNCH FROM 12:00 to 13:05

4. ZOOM MEETINGS:

- Discussion held on the feasibility of opening up the board meetings to the membership via ZOOM. Currently we have the capability to host up to 100 people.
- There was discussion on how this would function as this is a business meeting and the membership would be allowed to listen only.
- The pros and cons of this were discussed and it was decided to have Brian Anderson Jr. look at what would be needed to allow one delegate from each chapter view the meetings (both board, presidents, and membership meetings and report at the next meeting.

Meeting called back to order by President Tremel at 1:05pm

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **ELECTION RESULTS:** The Executive Secretary reported on the election results. He thanked the group that assisted with the ballot counting last night. The results are as follows:

- PRESIDENT- Ted Elder
- SR. VICE PRESIDENT- Justin Birchfield
- VICE PRESIDENT- Jim Derstine
- TRUSTEE DISTRICT #7- Jeff Stauffer
- TRUSTEE DISTRICT #8- Dan Lintz
- TRUSTEE DISTRICT #9- David Lewis

2. APPOINTMENTS:

On a motion by Tim Jones, seconded by David Lewis, Bill Blunden was appointed as executive secretary, Candy Bennett as membership secretary and Leroy Wilder as treasurer and CARRIED.

3. **VICE PRESIDENTS:** A discussion was held and the need to have multiple vice presidents in the organization. The current job duties were discussed. Given that there are more efficient communication capabilities now than there were in the past, there may not be a need for more than one. This will be given to the bylaws committee to review and make recommendations.
4. **BY-LAW COMMITTEE:** Tim Jones, Bill Blunden, Tom Hooker and Justin Birchfield were appointed as the new by-law committee. The discussion then focused on the need to update the current bylaws and how to do so. It was proposed that we make 2-3 change recommendations with each election ballot so that members are not overwhelmed with choices. The committee will look into making a list of proposed changes and prioritize them for the next meeting. We will plan on adding 2-3 changes with each election cycle.
5. **ELECTIONS:** Discussion was held on the fact that there have been a number of uncontested elections and the need to send ballots in this case. The discussion focused on how to get individuals to run for office and contribute. Leroy Wilder suggested that a write-in space be included on ballots to possibly encourage people to run for an office. The by-laws committee will look into this as well. President Elder asked everyone to read and become familiar with the by-laws as there are a number of issues with the current version.
6. **OWNERS MANUAL:** Past President Tremel discussed the need to do an owner's manual as we have done in the past. Previously there was a roster printed one year and then an updated owner's manual the next. This has not been done in a number of years. Candy Bennett has information on a database and that there is an opportunity from members to update this information on their current vehicles. There will be an article put into ST to show members how to update and get a current list and then look at printing a manual every other year.
7. **BUDGET APPROVAL:** the 2022 budget was approved on a motion by Tim Jones, seconded by Chuck Buschardt and CARRIED with one abstention.

BREAK from 2:30pm until 2:45pm

8. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE:

Presentations were made on the upcoming summer and winter meetings and approved.

- Summer 2022- Brian Anderson Jr. reported that the MAFA Chapter and the IFBA will be holding a joint convention in Woburn, MA. The dates are June 22-25, 2022. Joe Sullivan from the Fire Buffs Association discussed how they will work with Mass on a joint program.
- Winter 2023- potentially Phoenix AZ at the Hall of Flame Museum Feb 1-4. Details to come later. Brian Anderson Jr. is spearheading this. He has found a hotel and needs to sign a contract to reserve it. **Motion made by Bill Blunden, seconded by Tom Hooker to authorize the signing of the agreement.**

Discussion focused on our liability if 168 room nights are not booked, we will be held liable. Motion CARRIED with one opposed.

- Summer 2023- Richard Quetta reported that the Rhode Island Chapter is continuing to work on plans for this convention.
 - Winter 2024- The Indiana Chapter is exploring this currently
9. President Tremel brought up the discussion of allowing former member Bill Dundas to be allowed back into the organization. The details of his offenses were reviewed for the new members. The executive secretary has a file outlining the timeline of what happened and will keep this with his files. He will continue to be banned from future membership due to these offenses. President Tremel reminded the group that we should never forget what happened or allow it to happen again.
10. Ted Elder discussed the need to attract new members and thanked everyone for what they have done. He stated he has no big changes and that the organization is running smoothly, but encouraged members to look for opportunities to improve.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
William Blunden, Executive Secretary

SPAAMFAA CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEETING

Friday 2/25/2022
Wyndham Hotel
Kissimmee, Florida

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 26 chapters represented at the meeting.

President Elder explained the purpose of the chapter presidents meeting and what was expected. He said that he was going to use the sign-in list to call on the chapters present. He then asked the Chapter Presidents if they had any concerns or questions that they would like the board to address. The following topics were raised:

- The overwhelming issue brought up during this meeting was the effect that Covid-19 has had on chapter and national activities. Last year was much better than the previous year as things are beginning to open up and more events have been held. It is hoped that this muster season will be back to normal.
- Chesapeake Chapter- Frank Tremel stated there were no concerns.
- Eastern Long Island Chapter- Craig Raynor expressed an interest in their chapter holding a national summer convention. He was instructed to speak with the Muster Chairman Richard Quetta for assistance with this.
- Texas Gulf Coast Chapter- Chuck Buschardt reported that their membership is down as the members are getting older. They had a muster at the museum in Tyler Texas.
- Central NY Chapter- Pat Gannon reported that covid had ruined things this year. Big Bertha is now roadworthy and they have lost 6 members in the past 3 years.
- Cleveland Chapter- Stan Socha stated things are going well with no issues.
- Rhode Island Chapter- Richard Quetta reported that they had a successful year and had teamed up with the ATHS chapter with cross membership. They will be holding the Summer 2023 convention.
- SCAFA Chapter- Mike Kelleher asked a question about the insurance that was answered by executive secretary Blunden.
- Great Lakes Chapter- Christopher Lambert reported that they are looking at doing "Rolling Musters/parades". These may occur both in the United States and Canada. He had a question on insurance coverage especially in Canada. Executive Secretary will contact our JC Taylor agent to find out about coverage. *(JC Taylor contacted and events in Canada and Puerto Rico ARE covered under the chapter certificate)*
- Massachusetts Chapters- Brian Anderson Jr. reported that they will be holding the summer 2022 convention in Woburn Mass. 6/22-25/2022.
- ODHS Chapter- Tommy Herman reported that they are continuing to grow and things are going well.
- FABB- Wayne Middleton reported that the chapter is very active and going well. He hoped everyone is enjoying themselves this week.
- Fairchester Hose Haulers- Pat McCarty reported that they are reaching out to the other local chapter that is struggling. They have a large number of trucks and have difficulty trying to restore them all.

- Rekindle Chapter- Tom Hooker stated membership is stable and that they have no concerns.
- Union Historical Society- Butch Tickner asked what they can do to help EE and will work with Scott Rollins. They are now sending their newsletter to all the chapters and they have a new website. She also stated that the Allentown Spring Melt is a GO!
- PPPSI Chapter- Ted Moore reported that things are going well and they have musters scheduled this summer.
- SVFAA Chapter- Bill Graham reported that membership is stable with some gains and some losses. He said that the chapter is getting back on track and is trying to be a better non-profit organization.
- PPPrimers- A member who was present reported that things are going well with no issues.
- Cradle of Liberty Chapter- Keith Kemery reported that they have been using social media and electronic communications to grow the chapter with younger members. He asked about the D&O insurance for meetings and if they were covered at other locations. The answer was yes.
- Genesee Chapter- Jim Kurycki reported that they have 17 new members under the age of 40. He also mentioned that they have a new book commemorating their 40th anniversary. See Jerry Clement to get a copy.
- Palmetto Chapter- Scott Luedtke reported that the chapter is resuming operations next Monday following a break due to covid.
- Miles Greenwood and Miami Valley Chapters- Dan Lintz reported that they are starting back up after covid.
- NJ Chapter- David Napier reported things are going well.
- Thousand Islands Chapter- Bill Blunden reported that there are no issues.
- Bill Blunden reported that future emails will be sent to both the chapter president and secretary as there has been some miscommunication due to the president no longer being in office.
- President Ted Elder stated that they are still looking for help with EE magazine by sending photos to Scott. He also stated that we will be doing the apparatus roster next year and to please go into your web profile and update your information. President Elder also stated that we need to do more to recruit new members. There will be a new membership application being drawn up and sent out with an issue of EE. If everyone recruited one new member with that application, we would double our membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

SPAAMFAA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday 2/25/2022

Wyndham Hotel

Kissimmee, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 pm by President Elder followed by the pledge of allegiance. VP Justin Birchfield then introduced the members of the Board and committee chairs.

- Executive secretary Bill Blunden then read the deceased member list followed by a moment of silence.
- Bill Blunden then read off the highlights of the board meeting that was held Wednesday.
- Membership secretary reported that we now have 193 members YTD. We seem to have an issue retaining members and reported that in 2018 we had 3-400 more members.
- Treasurer Leroy Wilder reported that we ended the year 2021 on a positive note. He has gotten a new computer and software that is geared for non-profits and is now able to get more in-depth and accurate reports. The board has approved the budget for 2022 and we should continue to be in good shape financially.
- President Elder reported that SPAAMFAA is doing well and is financially stable. He reviewed items like the website, archives and the leadership. We enjoy fire apparatus and fellowship and we need to work together to bring in new members and to recruit volunteers for the various committees and offices.
- President the introduced immediate past president Frank Tremel who received a long standing ovation. Frank was then presented with a trophy of a speaking trumpet to thank him for all he has done over the past 3 years helping to rebuild the organization.
- Past President Tremel then awarded Bill Blunden with the President's Award for all the work he has done over the past 3 years to keep the organization running smoothly. He also awarded Stan Socha the "Spirit of SPAAMFAA" Award for his work keeping the organization financially stable during his time as treasurer.
- Richard Quetta, the Muster Committee Chairman reported that he and his group have been working to update the muster manual. It should be ready by the June convention. It will then be put on the website once completed.
- Richard then outlined the coming conventions:
 - Summer 2022- Woburn Mass
 - Winter 2023- Phoenix Arizona (Hall of Flame)
 - Summer 2023- Warwick RI
 - Winter 2024- Open
 - Summer 2024- Possibly York PA in conjunction with ATHS
- Doug Boudrow and Joe Sullivan discussed the upcoming summer convention in Mass in June. Brochures are available here, on the website and will be sent out soon.
- Brian Anderson Jr. reported on the winter 2023 convention in Arizona
- Richard Quetta reported on the convention in the summer of 2023.

OPEN FORUM:

- John Tippet, the editor of the Silver Trumpet asked the group to continue sending in articles, chapter news and other times of interest.
- Jim Kurycki reported that due to the Covid issue, the summer 2020 convention has to be cancelled. They have designed a shirt even though the convention was not held. If interested, see him or Jerry Clement.
- There were no other comments made by the group

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm

Respectfully Submitted,
William Blunden, Executive Secretary